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BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for

1943.

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BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT ~~ANNUAL REPORT~~

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Battle Rural District Council:

I have the honour of presenting the tenth Annual Report of the Battle Rural District.

It is shortened by direction of the Ministry of Health as the previous reports for the years of war have been, but the matter omitted is not that which takes longest to compile or is most important.

Figures indicating population should be regarded as secret.

Since by resolution of the Council held on 7th October, 1943 Minute 136, it was directed that "the Medical Officer be instructed to present a short report on the General Health of the Battle Rural District to the Meeting of the Public Health Committee in the February of each year" and since such a report was presented last February for the year 1943 much of the completed report will have been seen by District Councillors.

The most important difference between the numbers of notifiable diseases in 1942 and 1943 are for pneumonia, 15 in 1942, 28 in 1943, for measles 292 and 544 and for whooping cough 64 and 5, respectively.

Deaths from cancer rose from 64 to 80.

One of the most important activities of the Public Health Department has been inoculation for immunizing against diphtheria.

Thanks to Colonel J. E. H. Sawyer, M.D. M.R.C.P. this has continued steadily. It entails a great deal of work and the Council and the District, not to say the Country, owes him many thanks.

Figures from the Registrar General have enabled a more accurate computation of the percentage of children who have been inoculated than was possible heretofore. If this is lower than the calculation for 1942 seemed to shew it is yet respectable and rising.

Mr. A. E. Harris continued his salvage work. His figures speak for themselves.

Mr. W. Francis was in charge of gas-decontamination with Mr. W. Ramsden as his deputy.

Mr. Francis also lectured as A.R.P.S. Instructor and had duties in the Control Room.

The return of Mr. W. Ramsden on January 1st after more than three years in the Army enabled some arrears of Public Health work to be made up, though the staff was still short by two Sanitary Inspectors of its peace time strength.

Few matters newly requiring attention have had to be neglected and much routine work was resumed, chiefly that connected with milk and dairies.

244 samples of milk, compared with 19 in 1942, were taken and nearly 600 inspections were made with a view to improving buildings and methods of production.

Lack of water has been a matter of concern. Many premises were found to be without an adequate supply.

Of 53 water samples 33 were unsatisfactory. It must be remembered that the Council cannot require an owner to spend more than £20 in supplying water to any one house. (Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138).

Preliminary work for problems, that will arise after the war, especially for housing has been tackled.

Mrs. Thorpe was obliged to give up the post of First Aid Commandant on August 3rd. Her services were invaluable. Her standard of efficiency was the highest possible.

Miss Sturt was appointed to be Voluntary Staff Officer to Casualty Services.

Mr. A. R. Harman became Deputy First Aid Commandant on 11th June.

Scabies throughout the year was a nuisance and threw much work on the District Nurses, especially. Fortunately an adequate remedy is to be had.

Typhus had to be remembered and in September two out of fourteen Irish labourers at a hostel at Houghton Green, Playden were found to be infested with lice.

In accordance with Circular 2734 of the Ministry of Health, dated January 4th, 1943 Insulin may now be provided by the Local Authority to diabetics who cannot afford it.

In 1943 it was supplied to one patient in the District.

Miss E. V. Whatley has ably filled the office of Clerk to the Public Health and Surveyor's Departments. Her excellent memory and methodical ability have been of the greatest value.

She was well supported by Miss M. Hearnshaw and Mr. A. J. Saunders.

To these and to members of all departments it is pleasant to have an opportunity of expressing thanks for help and advice on innumerable occasions, with a special word for the Acting Clerk, Mr. R. A. Lusty, who busy as he has been has never failed in forbearance and possible help.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALAN MOORE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
The Watch Oak,  
BATTLE.

17th August, 1944.



### Statistics and Social Conditions

Area in acres	117,059
Population in 1943	26,120
No. of inhabited dwelling houses	9,780
No. of rateable premises in the year ending March 31st, 1943	11,051
Rateable Value, April 1st, 1943.	£191,790
Sum represented by a penny rate for the Financial Year ending March 31st, 1943	£735.2

### Occupation and Industry

The chief industries are agriculture and dairy farming.

The Gypsum Mine in Mountfield parish employed 271 males and 2 females. Late in the year the male employees numbered 218 and the female 4. 83 including the women worked above ground, the rest below.

Other important industries are a tannery, a jam factory and a steel window frame factory at Battle, and near Rye two factories where piles slabs, curbs, pipes and the like are made from concrete mixed with the local beach.

At Camber is another factory working with concrete and an Engineering works.

### Port of Rye

53 boats fished from the port. Of these 20 were usually berthed at Rye Harbour in the parish of Icklesham.

### Unemployment

The Manager of the Employment Exchange, 23, Priory Street, Hastings, is, as last year, debarred from giving information.

### Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	199	177	376
Illegitimate	25	19	44
Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of Resident Population			16.07
Live Birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales			16.5

### Stillbirths

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births live and still			16.39

	Male	Female
Deaths (Civilian only)	180	239
Nett death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population		16.04

Corrected death rate: cannot be given. The Areal Comparability figure for 1943 is not available.

Death-rate for England and Wales 12.1

#### Maternal Mortality

Deaths from puerperal infection	0	
Deaths from other maternal causes	1	
Maternal Mortality Rate		2.34
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales (all causes)		2.29

#### Infant Mortality

	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under one year of age		
Legitimate	8	6
Illegitimate	3	1
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births		42.85
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales		49
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		37.23
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		90.90

One death occurred from measles

No deaths occurred from diphtheria, scarlet fever or whooping cough.

Death rates for England and Wales

Diphtheria	.03
Scarlet fever	0
measles	.02
whooping cough	.03

Death from diarrhoea under 2 years of age none

Death rate from diarrhoea and enteritis of children under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births in England and Wales 5.3

Deaths from Cancer	Male	Female
	34	46
Registrar General's figures		

Cancer death-rate per 1,000 of population 3.06

Cancer death-rate for England and Wales, not available since 1938, then 1.66

# Deaths from Cancer

All deaths are included for which any form of cancer, including sarcoma, was mentioned in the Death Certificate. The primary seat of disease is given where known and the probable primary seat where one or more site has been registered without specification. Tumours that were probably malignant are included.

Fuller information received by the Register General after certification may cause a discrepancy between his figures and those of our Death Register.

Ages	Alimentary Canal including aeso- phagus but not pharynx		Breast		Lungs & Bronchi		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 10							1	
10 - 24								
25 - 29								
30 - 34				1				1
35 - 39							1	1
40 - 44				2				1
45 - 49	1						1	
50 - 54	2			3			1	2
55 - 59	3	1						
60 - 64	1	6				1		2
65 - 69	2	4		1	4			2
70 - 74	4	3		1	2		1	1
75 & above	4	7			1		3	3

## General Provision of Health Services

Medical Officer of Health,  
part time with Tuberculosis  
and School work under the  
M.O.H. of the East Sussex  
County Council.  
M.O.H. also for the Borough  
of Rye.

Alan Moore, M.B. D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of  
Health.

Col. J.E.H.Sawyer, M.D. M.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector  
and Surveyor.

A. E. Harris, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Deputy Surveyor

W. Francis, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Assistant Surveyor

W. Ramsden, Cert.S.I.B. M.S.I.A.

Works Engineer, Water

Engineer and Housing Manager G.A.Bramley, F.I.A.S. M.Inst.R.A.

Chief Clerk in the Public  
Health and Surveyor's  
Department

Miss E. Whatley



Adoptive Acts.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890.

Sections 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 are in force in the whole District, and Section 37 under the Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1935, is in force in the contributory places of Battle, Broomhill, Crowhurst, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Ore, Pett, St. Thomas the Apostle, Winchelsea, Salehurst and Westfield.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 17, 22, 27, 30, 32, & 33.

Section 33 is repealed as far as Byelaws are concerned.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Sections 14 and 24 are in force in the whole District.

Sections 21 and 22, now exercisable exclusively by the County Council are in force in the Parish of Battle.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1934.

Section 1 was adopted on November 1st 1934.

The Battle Rural (Urban Powers) Order; 1937.

In operation since January 9th 1937. It deals with special expenses for fireplugs in certain parishes.

The Battle R.D.C. has urban powers by virtue of the following sections of the Public Health Act, 1936:

Section 46 deals with sanitary conveniences in factories, workshops and workplaces. In force throughout the District.

Section 263: water courses in urban districts not to be culverted except in accordance with approved plans. In force in the contributory places of Battle, Brede, Burwash, Etchingham, Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham, Northiam, Pett, Salehurst, Ticehurst and Westfield.

Section 264: Urban Authorities may require repair and cleansing of culverts. In force as Section 263.

Byelaws.

New Building Byelaws came into force on April 1st 1939.

New Byelaws for New Streets came into force on June 1st, 1939.

New Byelaws for Hop & Fruit pickers came into force on June 1st 1939.

Byelaws for slaughter houses, adopted on or after January 1st 1934 by the Battle Urban District Council.



Immunization against Diphtheria

Colonel J. E. H. Sawyer gave more than 1,260 injections during the year.

The immunizing material used is A.P.T. Two injections, of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c., are given. The interval between them is usually about six weeks but may be as long as three months.

Immunization should be established in twelve weeks after the second injection.

The best time to immunize is as soon as possible after the first birthday.

Children who have had the injections when very young are if possible given another when they reach school age.

The Schick-test is not provided. This test shews whether a child who has had the inoculations is or is not immune.

A return has to be sent to the Ministry of Health every six months giving the number of children under 5 and of 5 to 14 who completed a course of immunization in the six months.

Estimated numbers of the two groups and the percentage of each considered to be immunized at the end of each period are also required and further information bearing on the efficacy of the inoculations if cases of diphtheria have occurred.

The figures for the first six months of 1943 were

<u>Completed Inoculation</u>	
<u>Under five</u>	<u>Aged 5 - 14</u>
232	186
<u>Estimated numbers of children</u>	
1,800	3,380
<u>Estimated percentage immunized</u>	
48.94	80.47

With the Registrar General's statistics for this report the numbers of children at the mid year are estimated as,

<u>Under fives</u>	<u>Aged 5 - 14</u>
1,871	3,702

This estimate makes the percentages inoculated

47.08                      and                      73.47

It must be remembered that actually the percentages must be higher because of children privately immunized.

For the second six months:

<u>Completed inoculation</u>	
<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Aged 5 - 14</u>
136	76
<u>Estimated numbers of children</u>	
1,880	3,426
<u>Estimated percentage immunized.</u>	
48.77	80.93

Of the three confirmed cases of diphtheria that were notified in 1943 one was of a girl of 13 who had had the two inoculations in 1941 when the doses given were 0.1 and 0.3 c.c. which have proved too small. Her disease ran an ordinary course.

Of the other two, one was a boy of 16 and the other a young woman of 22.

Neither of these had been immunized.

#### Schools

Besides those closed for influenza in November and December, see page 18, the following were closed for the reasons and for the times given. Rye schools are included since children from the District attend them.

<u>School</u>	<u>Reason for Closure</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Closed by</u>
Hurst Green	scarlet fever	26.1.43 - 3.2.43	L.S.A.
Burwash Weald	measles	10.7.43 - 17.7.43	L.S.A.
Peasmarsh	whooping cough	8.11.43 - 19.11.43	S.M.O.
Burwash Weald	scarlet fever	30.11.43 - 9.12.43	L.S.A.

The condition of most of the children seen is satisfactory generally highly satisfactory. This is no doubt largely due to school dinners and school milk.

Dinners are supplied at twenty five schools in the District and at Rye but not at Brightling, Dallington, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Winchelsea, Stonegate and Udimore. The Canteen at Sedlescombe has been temporarily closed while a new one is being built.

Every child is able to have milk if its parents wish and nearly all the children have it.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor reports as follows:

Public Health & Housing Acts.

No. of inspections in regard to drainage and Sanitary Accommodation	461
No. of inspections in regard to water supply .....	269
No. of visits to cowsheds, dairies and milk premises..	559
No. of new building inspections.....	82
No. of Hop-pickers lodgings (visits to farms .....	124
No. of visits for Infectious Diseases .....	108
No. of visits in connection with Salvage .....	423
No. of visits in connection with Refuse Collection ...	39
No. of visits to food shops and premises .....	213
No. of visits in regard to keeping of animals .....	11
No. of inspections in regard to dwelling houses under Public Health and Housing Acts .....	656
No. of visits in regard to Town Planning .....	106
No. of visits in regard to Moveable Dwellings .....	40
No. of visits in regard to Sewage Works and disposal .	127
No. of visits in regard to Nuisances .....	69
No. of visits in regard to Factories and Workshops ...	26
No. of visits to schools .....	8
No. of visits to verminous premises .....	19
No. of visits in regard to Enemy Action .....	81
No. of visits in regard to Civil Defence .....	40
No. of miscellaneous visits .....	114

Notices served under Public Health Acts

No. of informal Notices served .....	134
No. of informal Notices complied with .....	93
No. of statutory Notices served .....	1
No. of statutory Notices complied with .....	-

Notices served under Housing Act, 1936

No. of preliminary Notices served .....	34
No. of preliminary Notices complied with .....	13



MILK & DAIRIES.

No. of registered milk producers Dec. 1943.....	556
No. of registered retailers Dec. 1943.....	75
No. of informal notices served.....	83
No. of informal notices complied with.....	26
No. of premises in respect of which notices were outstanding where the necessary work though not completed, was in hand.....	29
No. of retailers struck off the Register of Retail Purveyors.....	1
No. of new cowsheds constructed.....	6
No. of existing cowsheds reconstructed.....	10
No. of new dairies constructed.....	11
No. of existing dairies improved.....	5
No. of premises where new drainage provided.....	8
No. of water supplies improved.....	8
No. of yards improved.....	9
No. of samples of milk submitted for examination	244
Total No. of examinations made.....	313
No. of samples examined by Methylene Blue Test..	202
No. of samples satisfactory.....	102
No. of samples unsatisfactory.....	100
No. of samples examined for presence of B. Coli.	77
No. of samples satisfactory.....	52
No. of samples unsatisfactory.....	25
No. of samples examined for B. Abortus (Undulant fever).....	31
No. of samples positive.....	5
No. of samples negative.....	26
No. of samples examined for Dysentery and Typhoid.....	2
No. of samples negative.....	2
No. of samples examined for T. Bacilli.....	1
No. of samples negative.....	1
No. of wholesale producers registered during 1943	21
No. of retail purveyors registered during 1943	4

Many improvements were made during the year, particularly in the methods of production, though, under existing conditions, it was not possible to devote as much time to the work as was desired.

It was found that there was a desire on the part of many producers to improve both their milk supply and premises but owing to the difficulties of unsatisfactory water supplies and the labour and material shortage the results were not convincing. Generally speaking, the standard of milk production in the district is very low, as is instanced by the results of the samples.



Meat Inspection.

No animals were slaughtered at the private Slaughter-houses in the District during the year 1943, all slaughtering having been transferred to the Government Slaughterhouse at Hastings in August, 1941.

Other Foods:-

During the year the following items were surrendered and found to be unfit for food and withheld from sale for human consumption.

363 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Corned Beef
84	lbs. Corned Mutton
109 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. Chopped Ham
10	tins Salmon
20	tins Pilchards
4	tins Sardines
130	tins milk
14	tins beans
16	tins fruit
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. jam
22	lbs. Marmalade
8	tins meat and vegetables
21	lbs. bacon
32	lbs. boiled ham
15	lbs. beef
5	jars meat paste
56	lbs. onions
$\frac{3}{4}$	lb. tongue
1	tin soup
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. pudding mixture
2	lbs. mincemeat
28	lbs. sago
6	lbs. cheese
22	lbs. egg powder

The following food was damaged by enemy action, and found to be unfit for human consumption.

15	cwts. 37 lbs. jam
7	cwts. fruit
2	cwts. vegetables
84	lbs. Rolled Oats
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Sweets
68	lbs. Chocolate
1	cwt. 42 lbs. flour
88	lbs. butter and Margarine
3	lbs. tea
3	lbs. lard
6	lbs. Rice
3	lbs. Marmalade
5	tins fruit
4	lbs. Chutney
1	lb. cornflour
14	lbs. Cheese
7	lbs. Custard Powder
12	pkts. bun mixture
10	lbs. Salt
14	lbs. split peas
290	miscellaneous tins, jars and bottles of fruit, vegetables and meat.

### FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

No routine inspections of factories or workshops were made during the year, the work under this heading being confined to dealing with notices received from H.M. Inspector of Factories chiefly in relation to the provision of sanitary accommodation.

No. of informal notices served .....	5
No. of informal notices complied with .....	4
No. of informal notices outstanding .....	1

### HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

There are within the District 31 camps accommodating approximately 5,000 hop-pickers and considerable attention was paid to these camps during the season. In addition to routine inspections by your Sanitary Inspectors, inspections were made on different occasions by Inspectors of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Harvey, Regional Medical Officer, who visited a number of the camps in 1942, made a detailed inspection of them last season. Following his previous visits, he notified you Medical Officer of Health of numerous unsatisfactory conditions, chiefly in relation to sanitary accommodation and water supply, which he had noticed in connection with 13 encampments. It is pleasing to note that, consequent upon action taken by the Department, it was found that in every case, efforts had been made to remedy these defects. Unfortunately the detailed inspections which were made last season revealed many more defects and unsatisfactory conditions.

Arising out of the inspections, Dr. Harvey expressed the opinion, which is also that of your Sanitary Inspectors that the general standard of accommodation in this district is very low indeed and that every effort should be made to improve the conditions, particularly as they affect the lodgings themselves, sanitary accommodation and cooking facilities.

The Council's byelaws set out a minimum only of the requirements for securing the decent lodging and accommodation of the hop-pickers but the standards laid down are quite insufficient to fulfil these requirements. In this connection, I need only mention that earth floors are still permitted, privy pits are considered to be suitable, whilst it is within the law for a man and his wife together with their eight children under ten years of age to occupy a galvanized iron lodging of the size recommended by the Ministry of Health. Moreover, a building which has been used for animals is permitted for use by human beings providing ten days has elapsed since their removal therefrom and the building has been treated with disinfectant.

That an improved standard of byelaws is required is obvious, but before the Ministry of Health are likely to confirm the adoption of new and improved byelaws, ample proof will be required that not only are the improvements necessary but also that they are practicable, and this can only be achieved by raising the existing standards above those of the existing byelaws. Wartime is not a suitable time to demand extensive structural alterations, but a definite policy of improvement should be formulated and put into effect as soon as circumstances permit.

### WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

During the month of May this year an enquiry was made by the Minister of Health for up to date information concerning the availability in the Battle Rural District of piped water supplies for domestic purposes and as to the proximity to a sewer of groups of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in diameter.

The following approximate information covering the whole district was supplied.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of houses having a piped water supply under pressure  | 3603 |
| 2. Number of houses <u>not</u> having a piped water supply and which have their curtilage within 100 yards of a water main  | 136  |
| 3. Number of houses not covered by the above in villages or groups consisting of 20 or more houses so placed as to lie within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter | 2575 |
| 4. Houses not connected to a public sewer in villages or groups of 20 or more houses within a circle $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in diameter                                   | 3655 |

Grave concern is felt in many parishes regarding the absence of a piped water supply.

This is a serious problem in view of the fact that the majority of wells are of the shallow type which are so soon affected when rainfall is below average.

With the exception of the north west and south west parishes which are fairly well covered by piped supplies, the whole of the District has an unreliable water supply.

In the coastal parishes well water is brackish, and in consequence resort has to be made to stored rain water, which even under the most careful conditions of collection and storage is of very doubtful quality.

The problem so far as some of the coastal parishes are concerned will be solved by reason of the Council's Agreement with the Hastings Corporation, which provides for the laying of water mains in connection with the latter Authority's new reservoir works in the area of the Battle Rural District.

There still remains a very large area which, in the absence of a piped supply, will continue to be a source of trouble not only to the residents but also to the Council.

#### Robertsbridge Sewerage

During the early part of the year exceptionally severe rain storms coincident with a breakdown of the pumping machinery at the works occurred, resulting in the flooding of the low lying properties in Robertsbridge.

Since then works have been undertaken with a view to preventing as far as possible a recurrence of such flooding.



Water Analysis.

Total No. of samples submitted for Analysis.....	44
No. of samples submitted for chemical analysis.....	44
No. of samples satisfactory.....	16
No. of samples unsatisfactory.....	28
No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination.....	9
No. of samples satisfactory.....	4
No. of samples unsatisfactory.....	5
No. of premises connected to Main supplies.....	50
No. of supplies improved.....	16
No. of supplies disused.....	2

Public Supplies.

Heathfield & District Water Co. - Analysed by R.F.Wright  
9 samples were taken with satisfactory results.

Cranbrook District Water Co. - Analysed by Messrs. Beale  
& Suckling, London.  
2 samples were taken with satisfactory results.

Battle Rural District Council - Analysed by Messrs. Beale  
& Suckling, London.  
2 samples were taken with satisfactory results.

POST WAR HOUSING.

On the 21st October, 1943 a comprehensive report on Post War Housing was presented to the Public Health Committee.

A large number of houses will in due course fall to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, for consideration as to their fitness for human habitation.

A survey of the District revealed that approximately 300 houses will be required to re-house displaced families from unfit houses.

In addition to the above, an equal number of houses will be required in the District for the accommodation of returned soldiers, newly married couples, aged people and overcrowded families.



POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.Rye Police Court - 28th April, 1943

Appeal against the refusal to grant a licence for the use of land as a site for a moveable dwelling.

Appeal dismissed.

Hurst Green Police Court - 4th June, 1943.

Prosecution for six contraventions of the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

Fined £30 and £10 costs.

Hurst Green Police Court - 5th November, 1943.

Prosecution for three contraventions of the Byelaws for securing the Decent Lodging and Accommodation of Hop-pickers.

Fined £6 and £2 costs.

SALVAGE

The following salvage was collected during the year:-

	Tons	cwts	qrs	lbs	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper, etc.	145	6	3	22	1013	15	8
Ferrous Metals	246	14	1	7	550	1	7
Non-ferrous Metals	7	4	2	0	172	19	2
Bottles & Jars	4	16	0	0	19	8	6
Mixed Rags	13	11	3	18	266	9	2
Rubber	15	15	0	19	33	3	9
Bones	8	10	3	0	29	12	9
Sundries	1	13	2	19	7	4	1
	443	13	1	1	2072	14	8

Total collected since commencement of Scheme to 31.12.43

1537 tons 13 cwts 1 qr 12 lbs £2659 8s. 5d. (cash value)

NEW DWELLINGS

During the year new dwellings were erected as under:-

Beckley	(under £19 rateable value)	.....	1
Etchingham	31.12.43	.....	1
Etchingham	(over £19 rateable value)	.....	1
Dwellings incomplete at 31.12.43	.....	.....	11

The Battle Rural District Council built no houses in 1943, although 4 of the total of 11 in course of erection are being built by the Council for Agricultural Workers.

Cases of disease other than tuberculosis notified in 1943.

	1942	1943	Admissions to Isolation Hospitals in 1943
scarlet fever	35	33	25
diphtheria	3	4	4
puerperal pyrexia	4	3	
ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	
anterior polio myelitis	2 (1 in army)	0	
cerebro spinal meningitis	2	0	
pneumonia	15 (1 in army)	28	
erysipelas	4	5	2
measles	292	544	2
whooping cough	64	5	

Age Groups

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over
scarlet fever		1	1	2	2	17	5	2	3			
diphtheria							1	1	1	1		
pneumonia			1			1		1	4	2	13	6
erysipelas											1	4
puerperal pyrexia									2	1		
ophthalmia neonatorum	1											
measles	2	15	22	22	42	254	123	31	13	6	1	3
									Age unknown			
whooping cough		1	2	1		1						

### Influenza

Of the 28 cases of pneumonia notified 10 were noted as influenzal.

Of these 10, eight, of which seven were of women, were notified on or before April 8th. One man was notified at the end of November and one in December.

The disease was rife towards the end of the year. Schools were closed for it or for severe colds resembling influenza as follow:

Northiam	November 29th to December 6th
Beckley	November 30th to December 8th
Sedlescombe	December 2nd to December 11th
Westfield	December 4th to December 13th
*Brede	December 7th to December 10th
*Pett	December 9th to December 17th
*Ticehurst	December 9th to December 17th
*Playden	December 10th to December 17th
Udimore	December 11th to December 17th
Sedlescombe	December 13th to December 17th
Crowhurst	December 14th to December 17th
Sedlescombe	December 20th till Christmas Holidays
Udimore	December 20th till Christmas Holidays
Crowhurst	December 21st till Christmas Holidays

\*closed at advice of County M.O.H.

### Scabies

Cases of scabies occurred throughout the year but it is impossible to discover how many and whether every case thought to be new was so in fact.

It can however be stated that patients needing treatment were reported or found in every month, and in the parishes of Ashburnham, Battle, Brede, Brightling, Burwash, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Ewhurst, Fairlight, Icklesham, Iden, Salehurst, Sedlescombe, Ticehurst, Udimore, Westfield and Whatlington.

The number of known cases, some of them of patients who needed treatment more than once, was somewhere about 130.



Scarlet fever in 1943

Incidence in parishes for each month

<u>Month</u>	<u>Parish and Number in each</u>	
January	Battle	1
	Etchingham	1
February	Ticehurst	1
	Etchingham	1
	Salehurst	2
March	Salehurst	1
	Catsfield	1
	Etchingham	1
	Brightling	1
	Sedlescombe	1
April	Guestling	1
May	Salehurst	1
	Ticehurst	1
	Etchingham	2
June	Ticehurst	1
September	Westfield	1
October	Bodiam	1
	Brightling	3
November	Brightling	2
	Burwash	7
December	Brightling	1

Tuberculosis

Action under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925;  
none required.

Action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)  
Regulations 1925; none required.

Cases in Register December 31st 1943 and 1942

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1943	45	67	25	31
1942	46	62	27	32

Cases notified for the first time including those notified by letter from the County Tuberculosis Officer. Civilians only are noted except when a service man's home is in the District.

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	male	female	male	female
Under 1				
1 - 4			1	
5 - 14			1	
15 - 24	1	4	1	1
25 - 34	1	3	2	1
35 - 44	1			
45 - 54		1		
55 - 64	2	1		
65 & above		1		1

#### Tuberculosis Deaths

That is to say deaths of people who lived in the District and died there and deaths of those who belonged or had till recently belonged to the District but died outside in Hospital or elsewhere.

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	male	female	male	female
1 - 4			1*	1*
25 - 34		1		
45 - 54	1			
55 - 64	1**			
65 & above	1			

\* Name not in tuberculosis register.

\*\* Had also carcinoma of stomach.

Civil Defence

Sub-Controller - Colonel W. E. Hume-Spry, D.S.O.

Mrs. Thorpe was First Aid Commandant till August 3rd. On her resignation Miss Sturt was appointed as Voluntary Staff Officer to Casualty Services.

In 1943 First Aid Parties and the Rescue Service were in process of amalgamation resulting in the formation of Rescue Parties at Battle, Burwash, Guestling, Northiam and Robertsbridge, and Rescue Sections, without vehicle, at Ticehurst and Winchelsea.

Other means of dealing with casualties:

A Mobile First Aid Post at Battle in charge of Dr. W. E. Davidson and another at Robertsbridge in charge of Dr. E. C. Maxwell.

Seven up-graded First Aid Points and forty ordinary First Aid Points.

Members of Posts and Points have had regular practices and the Casualty services have co-operated and exercised with the Home Guard.

During 1943 there were 93 civilian casualties. Of these 9 caused death on the spot.

24 people were taken to hospital,  
53 were treated at First Aid Points and  
7 at home.

T H E    E N D.

